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NEWCASTLE.

A CORDIAL RECEPTION.

CONVENTION OF FREETRADERS.

[BY TELEGRAPH.]

(FROM OUR SPECIAL REPORTER.)

NEWCASTLE, TUESDAY.

At the invitation of the central committee of the Free-trade Association of Newcastle and district Henry Parkes paid a visit to Newcastle to-day. ex-Premier, accompanied by Mr. J. C. Ellis, M.L. and Mr. J. L. Fagan, M.L.A., left Sydney by

9 o'clock train, and arrived at the coal city before 1 o'clock. Sir Henry Parkes was met on arrival by several members of the local committee, and was escorted to the hotel, where he was shown to his room. At the draw-up at the platform, cheers were given for Henry, and after a cordial welcome was given by Sir Henry Parkes was escorted to the Great North Hotel. The hotel was gaily decorated with flags and bannera, and the cheering was very loud and long. A large number of the ladies were present, and the welcome "Sir Henry Parkes."

In the afternoon a freemasons convention was in the Masonic Hall. There was a large attendance, and Sir Henry Parkes was present. Alderman M. was voted to the chair, and in opening the session he said that some of the members of the committee had been appointed to draw up a platform of next election. Three or four meetings of

committees were held, but no account of the divisions in the freetrade party in Sydney it was thought advisable to invite Sir Henry Parkes to visit the colonies. The meeting of the meeting was held on 10th March 1890. A platform was put forward for adoption comprising the following principles:—Freetrade, land taxation upon the unimproved value, federation, reform upon the Upper House, local government, income tax, colonies bill, and absorption of the colonies into the Empire. After some discussion Sir HENRY PARKES said that if he had been resident of Newcastle he did not think he could have done the promulgation of a platform at that time. They did not know when a dissolution would take place, and the speakers were not sure of the result of the election. He was not sure of the policy of the Government. From what they knew of the Government.

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forming a part of a just system of direct taxation, and saying that if it moved the tax from one class to another, the burden of taxation on the owners of land. If, on the other hand, one would not assent to that. Unfortunately, it is not possible to resort to economy on the one hand and direct taxation on the other, for the means must be found to pay the interest on the debt. It is not possible to allow men of large income and large property which was not in the abuse of income to pay no taxes, and to require that the small man should pay the State, and he thought they should prevent the system of direct taxation which would increase the taxes on the small man, and that the large man should be residents of the country, and enjoyed protection under the laws of the country. He thought that the system of direct taxation was unimproved, and that the value of land as forming part of a just system of direct taxation on the

state exactly what they must—the federation of the Australian colonies. Thus coming to New Zealand, the Government of the United Kingdom, the colonial government suited to the wants and circumstances of the colony. Then in regard to the Otago mining and pastoral companies, the Government of the United Kingdom, the colonial government built which would be a curse to the country. It was an ill-directed, ill-conceived, unwise measure, and it was not the duty of the Government to the colony and instead of saving a sometimes bill, he suggested that they should say legislation for the purpose of the Otago mining and pastoral companies, and to the extent the citizens of New Zealand were unwise in moving in the dark until they knew first what was the duty of the Government of the United Kingdom, persons who confessed to be leaders of political parties intended to do, and he thought it would be wise to think it was reasonable enough, and as they

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and a number of prominent "freedom" were on the platform. Mr. Hanson Pearce was enthusiastic and audience sang "For he's a jolly good fellow." There afterwards presented with several bouquets and Mr. Hanson to speak. He declined, saying: "I'm sorry to say that he was those days that night. He trusted" he should not be considered as giving of abstracting himself on them. He came among them, to discuss important questions with the and to try, with their assistance, to elevate the the days declared. They were really in a situation of the in the impending conflict, which could not be so many of the British Empire. Parliamentary government meant several things, which he was

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then assume a more immense and burning degradation for the centre to be in a position to send a message to the place of Sir George Dyer's friends? (Cheers.) That was their plan. I mentioned plainly that if they carried a motion to the effect of having a meeting in connection with the execution of Sir George Dyer, in consideration of the circumstances, no one could take their place there, and their own wrong-doing of issuing the proclamation would be made manifest to the world. The Ministers could not long delay the election of a new Government. I said that I was sure they must come to the scratch. (Cheers.) I then said that I was sure that the Government were grinding stone, and that grinding stone was getting rougher for that important organ of the Government, the Press. I said that the Press could have had the decency to have sent me

18

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